

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY China/Tibet

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT 1. Kazakh Group in Tibet
2. Trade and Transport in Tibet

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. In January 1953 the Communist authorities in Lhasa appointed four emissaries to contact a group of 500 Kazakhs situated approximately one month's travel west of Lhasa¹ for the purpose of inviting them to the capital to discuss their political status. By March 1953 the emissaries had not yet returned to Lhasa. Somewhat earlier than this attempt, a similar invitation had been taken to the same group of Kazakhs by representatives from Lhasa; at that time the Kazakhs refused to go to Lhasa, but said that might go later if they felt the visit would be to their benefit.
2. In the early months of 1953 trade was flourishing between Tibet and China. Tibetan businessmen were pleased by the fact that the Chinese were bringing large amounts of silver dollars into Tibet.
3. Airplanes flying cargo from China to Tibet land at Ch'angtu (N 31-10, E 97-07), Sikang Province, where the goods are unloaded. From Ch'angtu to Lhasa the goods are transported by camel caravan.²
4. Occasionally, during the early part of 1953, camel caravans carrying arms and ammunition left Lhasa for the Indian border.

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1. **Comment.** [REDACTED] another source reported a group of Kazakhs about fifteen days' travel northeast of Gartok - a distance estimated at approximately 120 miles. Similar calculations would put this group about 240 miles west of Lhasa, or at least 300 miles southeast of the location reported [REDACTED].
- Comment.** [REDACTED] reported a rumor in Leh that the Government of India wished to contact the Kazakhs in Tibet. [REDACTED] reported a group of Kazakh refugees in the Kunlun Mountains, near the Sinkiang-Tibet border.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. A Survey of Tibet dated July 1942 reported camels as the least important of the pack animals used in Tibet, used only in cold weather and chiefly north of Nagchhu Dzong (N 31-30, E 92-00) on the Mongolia-Lhasa road. The same report indicated that mules were commonly used in the lower altitudes of eastern Tibet, and yaks in all areas at elevations above 8,000 feet. Should transport other than camels have been envisaged for the emissaries in paragraph 1, the distance of the Kazakh group from Lhasa could be estimated at from 300 to 360 miles, using yaks, and considerably more if ponies, mules or donkeys were to be used.

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